Cherokee County Water & Sewerage Authority (CCWSA) Salacoa Distribution System Georgia Water System (GA) - 0570075

2025 Annual Water Quality Report

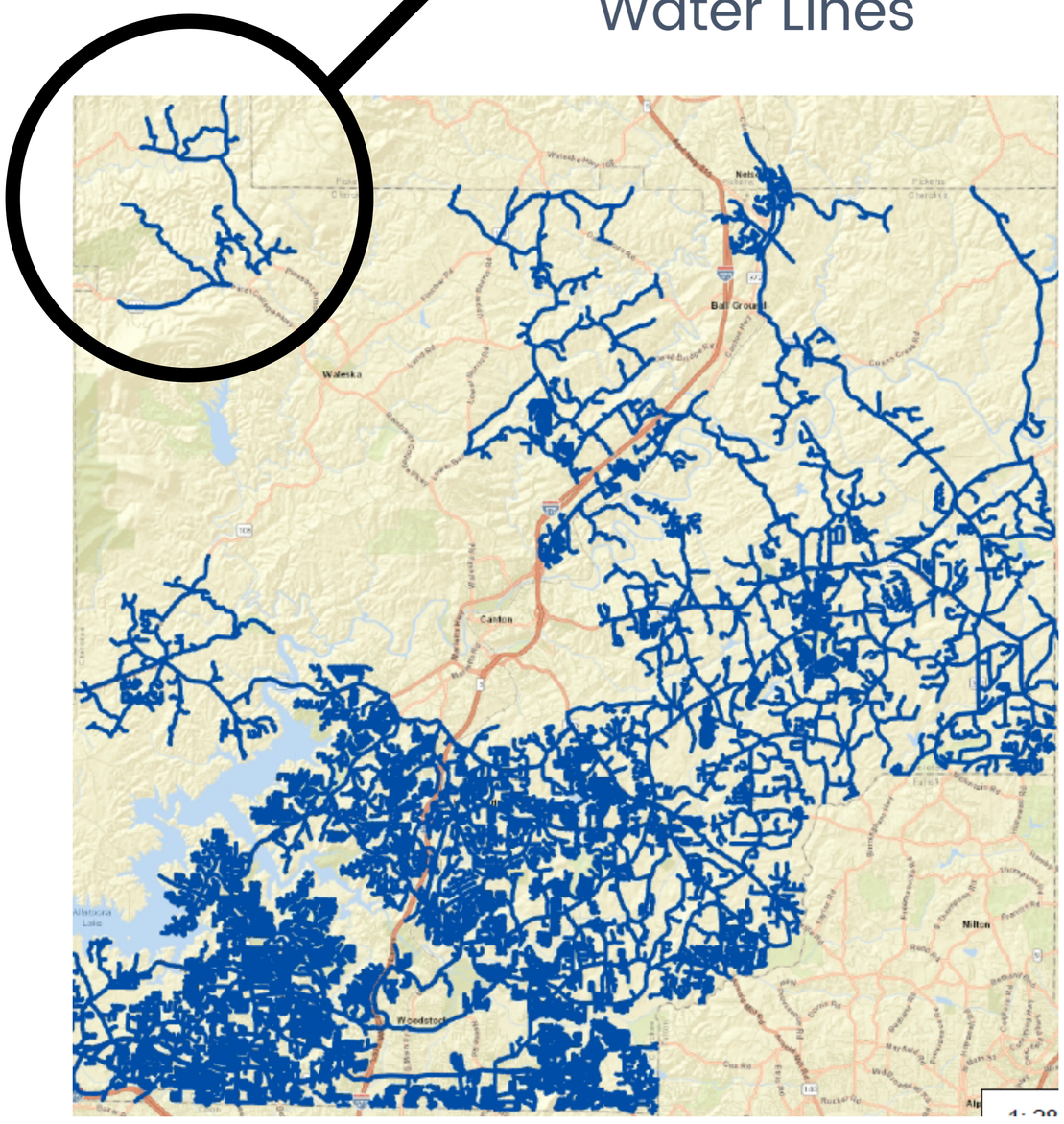
Presented by CCWSA: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025

Your water meets all federal and state regulations for water quality

Summary: Cherokee County Water and Sewerage Authority is proud of the high-quality drinking water it provides. This annual report shows the source of our water, lists the results of our tests and contains important information about water and health.

Salacoa Water Distribution System

Water Lines



Para recibir informacion más detallada del reporte llame al 770-479-1813 ext. 1137

For more Information about this report contact the CCWSA Public Information Specialist at 770-479-1813 Ext. 1176

What is the source of my water?

CCWSA purchases all drinking water for the Salacoa Area Water System from Pickens County Water and Sewer Authority which is a purchase only system. Pickens County Water and Sewer Authority purchases water from the City of Calhoun, Cherokee County Water & Sewer Authority, City of Jasper, Utilities Inc and Gilmer County Water

The water for the Salacoa Area Water System primarily comes from the City of Calhoun's Brittany Drive Plant. The source of water from the plant comes from excellent groundwater and natural spring sources.

You may obtain a copy of Pickens County Water and Sewer Authority's report by contacting Phillip Dean, Director of utilities at 706-253-8177, via e-mail: pdean@pickenscountyga.gov or through the website: www.pickenscountyga.gov

Important Health Information

Drinking Water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or at www.epa.gov/safewater

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 426-4791 or on EPA's website epa.gov/safewater.

Lead and Copper Rule

*Lead does not typically come from the treatment facilities and water mains. It may come from the service line. What is a service line? The piping that runs from the water main to the building inlet.
*In 1986 Congress amended the CWA, banning the use of pipes, solder and flux that were not 'lead-free" in the public water systems or plumbing in facilities providing water for human consumption.
*While the use of lead lines was banned in 1986, some jurisdictions including Cherokee County's building code didn't explicitly ban lead until 1992.

The service line inventory (inventory of all the service lines in the system) was completed in 2024 and all homes in the Salacoa area were built after Cherokee Counties lead line ban.

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. CCWSA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. To access all the lead tap sample results or if you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact Lori Forrester at 770-479-1813 Ext. 1176. Lead results are in table on page 5. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Glossary of terms

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in Drinking Water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which water systems must follow.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Water Quality Table Explanation

Table on page 5

The table summarizes the results of our water quality analyses. Every regulated contaminant that we detect in the water, even in the minutest traces, is listed here. This table contains a key to units of measurement, the name of each substance, the highest level allowed by regulation, the ideal goals for public health, the amount detected (average), the usual sources of such contamination and footnotes explaining our findings

The data presented in this report is the the most recent testing done in accordance with regulations.

Table Key

AL = Action Level
MCL = Maximum Contaminant Level
MCLG = Maximum Contaminant Level Goal
MRDL = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
MRDLG = Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level
NTU = Nephelometric Turbidity units
TT = Treatment Technique
PPM = Parts Per Million, or milligram per Liter (mg/L); one part per million is equivalent one penny in 10 thousand dollars.
PPB = Parts Per Billion, or micrograms per Liter (ug/L); one part per billion is equivalent to one penny in 10 million dollars.
N/A = Not Applicable

Water Quality Table

Contaminant	Year	Units	MCL/ MRDL	MCLG/ MRDLG	Amount Detected	Range detected	Major Sources	Violation
Fluoride - 1	2025	ppm	4	4	0.62	0.42-0.86	Erosion of Natural deposits; Water additives which promote strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories	No
Nitrate/Nitrite - 2	2025	ppm	10	10	1.32	0.54-2.10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks; Sewerage; Erosion of natural deposits	No
Chlorine	2025	ppm	4	N/A	0.85	0.30-1.40	Drinking Water additive used for disinfection	No
Total Organic Carbon	2025	ppm	TT	N/A	0.65	0.00-1.70	Naturally present in the environment	No
Turbidity - 3	2025	NTU	TT=1	0	0.290	0.020-0.290	Soil runoff	No
Total Trihalomethanes	2025	ppb	80	0	23.0	Only 1 sample collected for the year	Byproduct of drinking water disinfectant	No
Haloacetic Acids	2025	ppb	60	0	6.69	Only 1 sample collected for the year	Byproduct of drinking water disinfectant	No

Contaminant	Year	Units	AL	Goal (MCLG)	Range	Range	Major Sources	Violation
					Low	High		
Lead - 4	2025	ppb	15	0	0	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No
Copper - 5	2025	ppb	1300	0	67	230	Corrosion of household plumbing systems	No

Microbiological

Contaminant	Sample Dates	MCL	MCLG	Level 1 Assessment Tigger - 6	Level detected	Major Sources	Violation
Total Coliform (TC)	1/1/2025 - 12/31/2025	TT	TT	Exceeds 5.0% TC+ in a month	0 Positive samples	Naturally present in the environment	No
E. coli (EC)	1/1/2025 - 12/31/2025	0	0	N/A	0 Positive samples	Naturally present in the environment	No

Table Footnotes

1 - Fluoride is added to the drinking water to help the prevention of dental cavities (caries) in children.
2 - Nitrate and Nitrite are measured together.
3 - Turbidity is a measure of cloudiness of the water. The turbidity rule requires 95% or more of monthly samples must be below 0.30 NTU. During the reporting year 100% of the samples were <0.30 NTU.
4 - 5 sites were tested. No sites exceeded Action Limit. Tested every 3 years - will be tested again in 2028.
5 - 5 sites were tested. No sites exceeded Action Limit. Tested every 3 years - will be tested again in 2028.
6 - A PWS (Public Water System) will receive an E. coli MCL violation when there is any combination of an EC+ sample result with a routine/repeat TC+ or EC+ sample result. Coliforms represent bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present E. coli are bacteria whose presence indicates that the water may be contaminated with human or animal waste.

What are PFAS?

PFAS, or per- and polyfluoralkyl substances, are a group of over 6,000 manufactured and used home consumer products such as carpets, clothing, food packaging and cookware since the 1940's. PFAS have been extensively produced and studied. PFAS are used in many applications because of their unique physical properties such as resistance to high and low temperatures, resistance to degradation and nonstick properties. PFAS have been detected worldwide in the air, soil and water.

Due to their widespread use and persistence in the environment, most people in the United States have been exposed to PFAS. The U.S. EPA has determined there is evidence that continued exposure above specific levels to certain PFAS substances may cause adverse health effects.

PFAS and PFOA has been detected in City of Calhoun's Brittney Drive's finished water, however important steps have been made to treat the water. For full details go to https://www.cityofcalhoun-ga.com/pfas-information/

Important Information from City of Calhoun

Although the US EPA's (Environmental Protection Agency) new regulation provides a window of up to five years for public water systems to reach full compliance (2029), we have already taken action in order to evaluate and ultimately remove these contaminants from your water. Calhoun Utilities has been monitoring for PFAS, notifying the public and Georgia EPD of the levels of these PFAS, and undertaking efforts to evaluate how best to reduce the levels of these PFAS in drinking water. Due to the unique chemical properties of PFAS, conventional water treatment plants are not able to remove PFAS from drinking water using conventional treatment methods. As a result, Calhoun Utilities has evaluated state-of-the-art permanent water filtration systems to reduce PFAS to non-detectable levels.

After months of piloting, our outside engineers completed a successful pilot program and recently finalized their recommendations for permanent PFAS treatment to the city.The City of Calhoun Mayor & Council recently voted to select High Recovery Reverse Osmosis improvements for both the Mauldiun Road and Brittany Drive water treatment plants. Reverse Osmosis (RO) has not only been deemed the best available technology by the EPA for PFAS treatment, but RO has been selected by other municipalities in Georgia and Alabama to address PFAS contamination in public water supplies.
In the interim, we have installed Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) in existing filter beds at our Brittany Drive Plant as a temporary and emergency measure to reduce PFAS from the drinking water supply while permanent, long-term PFAS filtration improvements are under engineering design and implementation. We remain on track to meet the US EPA's compliance deadlines.

Board Meetings

We encourage public interest and participation in our community's decisions affecting drinking water. The public is welcome to our regular board meetings held the last Monday of each month at 110 Railroad Street, Canton 30114. Even number months at 4 pm and odd numbered months at 9 am. Please call for holiday schedule.

Hollis Q. Lathem Reservoir

The reservoir encompasses 334 acres with about 15 miles of shoreline and is surrounded by 150-foot buffer. The lake is located in Cherokee and Dawson Counties. The entrance is located at 5436 Cowart Road, Dawsonville, GA 30534. Visit our website for hours, rules and a map - https://ccwsa.com/reservoir/

Awards

- Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP)- Education Program of Excellence Award, Platinum Award

- Georgia Association of Water Professionals (GAWP) - Best Consumer Confidence Report Gold Award

- Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (CAFR) by the government Finance Officers Association

Education and Outreach

The goal of CCWSA's Education and Outreach is to provide our customers with quality water education so that they have the ability to make smart decisions for themselves and their community. We offer programs that have target audiences ranging from school age to adult learners. We cover topics from water cycle to household water audits and water treatment process. We are committed to giving valuable information to our customers so they can understand how precious a commodity water is and what they can do to protect it and use it wisely.

"If there is magic on the planet, it is contained in water."
Loren Eisley, American Anthropologist

- Environmental education programs
- Promote special days/weeks with events and contests
- Sponsor/judge the local science and engineering fair
- Participate in career days and job fairs
- Host river cleanups
- Provide information and resources on our website and Facebook

Want to learn more? Go to https://ccwsa.com/education/